

Message Text

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SUBJECT: AAPSO MASS RALLY AND DELEGATE MEETINGS WITH PMAC FIRST
VICE-CHAIRMAN , MAJOR MENGISTU

REFS: (A) ADDIS ABABA 11289, (B) ADDIS ABABA 11395 (NOTAL)

(C) ADDIS ABABA 11402, (D) ADDIS ABABA 11435

SUMMARY: AFRO-ASIAN PEOPLE'S SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION (AAPSO)
CONCLUDED 3-DAY CONFERENCE WITH WELL-ATTENDED MASS RALLY AT
REVOLUTION SQUARE. TWO-HOUR RALLY WITH 11 SPEAKERS GENERATED
ONLY MINIMUM OF ENTHUSIASM DESPITE ENERGETIC EFFORTS OF CON-
FERENCE CHAIRMAN TESFAYE TADESSE WOLDE-MEDHIN TO EXCITE CROWD
BY LEADING CHEERS CONDEMNING IMPERIALISM, RACISM, COLONIAL-
ISM, THE CIA, VORSTER AND SMITH. NOVEMBER 2 ETHIOPIAN HERALD
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GAVE PROMINENT PHOTO COVERAGE TO SERIES OF TALKS HELD PAST

SUNDAY BY PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (PMAC) FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN MAJOR MENGISTU HAILE-MARIAM WITH LEADERS OF TEN DELEGATIONS TO AAPSO CONFERENCE, END SUMMARY.

1. IN PEACEFUL AND QUIET ATMOSPHERE WITH MINIMUM SECURITY 7,000-8,000 ETHIOPIANS ATTENDED MID-AFTERNOON AAPSO RALLY TO DEMONSTRATE SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY WITH STRUGGLING PEOPLES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN ATO TESFAYE TADESSE, WHO GAINING PROMINENCE IN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AFTER CHECKERED STUDENT CAREER, INTRODUCED RALLY SPEAKERS WHO INCLUDED AAPSO. SEC. GEN. YOUSEF EL-SABAI, IRAQI DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF AAPSO NOURI ABDEL RAZZAK, SECRETARY GENERAL OF AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS ALFRED NZO, CYPRIOT DR. VASSES LYSSARIDES, SOVIET PRESIDUM MEMBER FIGRET TABEEV, ANGOLAN REPRESENTATIVE DR. OLGA LINA, VIETNAMESE REPRESENTATIVE TRAN HOAI-NAM, CUBAN DELEGATE RAMOS CLAUDIS, PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN REPRESENTATIVE ANIS HASSEN YAHYA, WEST GERMAN COMMITTEE OF ANTI-IMPERIALISTS SOLIDARITY DELEGATE PETER WAL AND CONON GOR, DELEGATE OF WESTERN EUROPEAN PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS. IN EFFORT TO STIMULATE CROWD PRIOR TO SPEECHES, TESFAYE LED SERIES OF AMHARIC CALL-AND-RESPONSE CHEERS WHICH INCLUDED "DOWN WITH CIA", BUT DID NOT GENERATE INORDINATE ENTHUSIASM.

2. ELEVEN SPEAKERS REITERATED MUCH OF PREVIOUS DAYS' RHETORIC; CONDEMNIN RACISM, IMPERIALISM, AND OPPRESSION; PRAISING ETHIOPIAN SOCIALIST REVOLUTION AND HOSPITALITY; URGING GREATER SUPPORT FOR COMPLETE LIBERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN AND COOPERATION WITH ALL PROGRESSIVE FORCES OF WORLD. VIETNAMESE, ANGOLAN, CUBAN, AND ANC SPEAKERS DID NOT MENTION US AS MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED, ALTHOUGH OTHERS MADE PASSING REFERENCES TO US ECONOMIC TIES WITH SOUTH AFRICA. PDRY SPEAKER MADE ONLY REFERENCE TO ZIONISM IN PRAISING SOCIALIST ETHIOPIA'S STRUGGLE AGAINST "WORLD IMPERIALISM, ZIONISM, AND RACISM". IN IRONIC REMARKS, PRESIDUM MEMBER TEABEEV PRAISED PORTION OF ETHIOPIAN NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PROGRAM WHICH PROVIDES FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT OF NATIONALITIES.

3. ETHIOPIAN HERALD REPORTED OCT. 31 MEETINGS BETWEEN PMAC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN MAJOR MENGISTU AND LEADERS OF TEN DELEGATIONS TO AAPSO CONFERENCE. THESE INCLUDED GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, VIETNAM, LOAS, CUBA, CHILEAN COMMUNIST PARTY, WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA, PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION, ANGOLA, AND GUINEA-BISSAU. DELEGATION HEADS REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR ONGOING ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION AND PRAISED EPMG DEDICATION TO FREEDOM, PEACE, PROGRESS, AND JUSTICE IN AF-

FRICA. TOGETHER WITH MAJOR BERHANU BAYEH, CHAIRMAN OF PMAC
POLITICAL AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, AND BERHANU DINKA,
HEAD OF AFRICAN DEPT. IN MOFA, MAJOR MENGISTU THANKED
VARIOUS DELEGATIONS FOR THEIR FULL SUPPORT DURING REVOLU-
TIONARY PERIOD.

4. ATTENDANCE AT RALLY WAS IMPRESSIVE BUT NOT OVERLY EN-
THUSIASTIC, CAUSING ONE TO SPECULATE ABOUT DEPTH OF CON-
CERN OF ETHIOPIAN BROAD MASSES FOR DISTANT STRUGGLES, EVEN
THOSE IN AFRICAM PROMINENCE GIVEN TO MAJ. MENGISTU'S MEETINGS
WITH DELEGATIONS APPEARS TO BE FURTHER ATTEMPT TO
ESTABLISH LEGITIMACY OF PMAC'S REVOLUTIONARY CREDENTIALS.
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